United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1611
28 March 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in resolution adopted on Friday, extends UNOMIG mandate until 30 June; urges Georgian and Abkhaz sides to resume negotiations so that it might consider deploying peace-keeping force.

+ UNHCR protests Thailand's return of 25,000 refugees to Cambodia in manner contrary to international humanitarian principles and practices.

+ Fifth Committe approves three draft resolutions by which General Assembly would authorize Secretary-General to commit up to $10.4 million per month for UNAVEM II, ONUSAL and UNCMIL.

+ Special Commission on disarmament of Iraq says crowd attacked one of its helicopters during medical evacuation in Mosul.

+ Secretary-General congratulates President Gaviria of Colombia on his selection as new Secretary-General of OAS.

+ Enrique ter Horst, Venezuelan national, appointed as Secretary-General's Special Representative in El Salvador and Chief of Mission of ONUSAL.

+ Secretary-General appoints Rosario Green, Mexican national, as Assistant Secretary-General in Department of Political Affairs.

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The Security Council decided on Friday evening to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) until 30 June, and urged the Georgian and Abkhaz sides to resume negotiations for a political settlement so that it might consider establishing a peace-keeping force there. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 906 (1994), in which it asked the Secretary-General to report by 21 June on any progress in the negotiations. The report should address the situation on the ground, with special attention to circumstances that might warrant a peace-keeping force and on the modalities for such a force.

(more)

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The Council also called once more on all concerned to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia. It stressed the right of all refugees and displaced persons to return safely to their homes throughout Abkhazia.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, today strongly protested Thailand's repatriation of some 25,000 Cambodian refugees, who had been granted asylum after fleeing fighting in western Cambodia. In a letter addressed to the Thai Foreign Minister, Mrs. Ogata took strong exception to the decision to return the Cambodians before arrangements for their safety had been made. She feared that their lives might be at risk given the state of insecurity in western Cambodia. Neither the UNHCR nor other international organizations have access to the areas where the refugees were returned.

Mrs. Ogata noted that the return of the refugees had been carried out while the UNHCR office in Bangkok was consulting with the Royal Thai Government, offering to provide assistance and to arrange a repatriation when possible. She stressed that the refugees had been returned in a manner contrary to internationally accepted humanitarian principles and practices.

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Acting without a vote, the Fifth Committe (Administrative and Budgetary) today approved draft resolutions by which the General Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General to commit up to $10.4 million gross per month for three United Nations peace-keeping missions. The Secretary-General could commit almost $2.1 million for the Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) for four months beginning June; nearly $3.9 million for the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) from 1 June to 15 September; and $4.4 million for the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL), for three months beyond 21 April 1994.

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The Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq has reported that one of its helicopters was attacked by a crowd during a medical evacuation operation in Mosul yesterday. The helicopter was evacuating two United Nations Guards suffering from gunshot wounds after an earlier ambush. The crowd threw stones at the aircraft, damaging its rotor blades and fuselage and smashing three windows.

The Special Commission noted that the Iraqi authorities had been informed of the operation and had consented to it. However, Iraqi military personnel at the site of the incident had failed to protect the helicopter. The Iraqi Government is required to ensure the safety and security of Special Commission personnel and property.

(more)

On Friday, the Special Commission reported that its Chemical Destruction Group had completed the destruction of Iraq's declared and recovered stockpile of chemical warfare agents. It said some 400,000 litres of sulphur mustard -- a blister agent which damages the lungs -- and large quantities of chemical munitions, nerve agents and precursor chemicals had been destroyed at the Muthanna site.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today congratulated President César Gaviria of Colombia on his selection as the new Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS). He said he was pleased that the OAS had been able to agree rapidly on a successor for outgoing Secretary-General Joao Clemente Baena Soares.

Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali also expressed confidence that cooperation between the United Nations and the OAS would flourish under President Gaviria's leadership.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to appoint Enrique ter Horst as his Special Representative in El Salvador and Chief of Mission of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), effective 1 April. Mr. ter Horst's appointment will be at the level of Assistant Secretary-General. He previously served as an Assistant Secretary-General in the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation.

Mr. ter Horst, a Venezuelan national who holds the rank of Ambassador in his country's Foreign Service, will succeed Augusto Ramírez-Ocampo, who will relinquish his post on 31 March, following the general elections in El Salvador.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today appointed Rosario Green, a Mexican national, as Assistant Secretary-General in the Department of Political Affairs. Ms. Green will report to Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding.

Prior to her current appointment, Ms. Green was Under-Secretary for Latin America, Cultural Affairs and International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. She has also served as the Executive Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission and as Executive Director for Mexico on the Commission on the Future of Mexico/United States Relations.

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